

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Developmental Therapist

REPORTS TO: Site Director

SALARY RANGE:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The therapist, a member of the IFSP/IEP team, evaluates, determines eligibility and provides treatment services to children, birth to age five in the appropriate setting as determined by the early childhood team; delivers services that will remediate developmental delays and disorders; collaborates with and gives guidance and support to parents, service coordinators, and the larger community; works with care givers in a variety of therapeutic models in all; the areas of development to which goals have been developed and, ensures that treatment services meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004.

REPRESENTATIVE TASKS include, but are not limited to:

TEACHING:

- Engages the child in developmental and learning activities.
- Provides instruction at the child's developmental level.
- Facilitates learning by engaging the child at the child's level while understanding and seeing what interests the child, or utilizes direct teaching techniques, as appropriate.
- Supports and facilitates the acquisition of new academic and social skills/knowledge, and ensures quality delivery of the same.
- Communicates to other team members all relevant information pertaining to the child's learning environment, family events, and other pertinent information that may affect the child's learning.
- When developmental therapy is provided in a classroom environment, is informed of the curriculum utilized by the classroom teacher.
- Prepares or utilizes child appropriate activities in the developmental therapy environment.
- Serves as a resource to the classroom teacher and parent to enhance the child's skill development and learning.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

- Ensures that the therapist's role within Child Find process is explained to the parent.
- Ensures that intake information is elaborated upon and elicits additional information from the parent.
- Ensures that the parent receive answers to their questions.
- Ensures that the parent receive accurate information in a timely manner.
- Specific to the developmental therapy domain, ensures that the parent receive accurate explanations of the results of the child's assessment.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

- Establishes rapport with children served.
- Conducts observations outside of the therapy environment/in the child's natural environment, as appropriate.
- Gathers and reviews documentation specific to the child's developmental history.
- Conducts interviews with the parent to obtain information specific to the child's developmental history.
- Determines the child's level of functioning and expresses that in standardized scores.
- Interprets evaluation and assessment results.
- Expresses a clinical opinion to the parent and to the team.

RECORDKEEPING AND REPORT WRITING

- Ensures that the clinical analysis of the evaluation is completed in a timely manner and that it is appropriately documented in evaluation reports.
- Writes plans of care, to include: treatment period, frequency, intensity and setting of services, diagnosis of disability long term goals, specific short term objectives that state desired behavior, context to achieve desired behavior, and measurement of achievement.
- Writes and maintains qualitative daily notes for therapy which form a measure of progress (or lack thereof).
- Writes and maintains quarterly reports for therapy to meet MaineCare and other regulatory requirements.
- Writes discharge reports when the child's disorder is remediated, when the child is functioning with an age appropriate range, or when discharged for other reasons.
- Communicates with the parent (by phone, by writing notes, e-mail, etc) to communicate progress, problem solve, elicit help, provide advice, etc.

IESP/IEP:

- Ensures that evaluation findings are reported to the IFSP/IEP team.
- Presents methods of treatment to the IFSP/IEP team for consideration.

EARLY INTERVENTION OR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES:

- Provides developmental therapy services as specified by the IFSP/IEP.
- Consults with CDS Case Managers and other providers (child specific, community, etc) to develop child-specific integrated plans.

BILLING DOCUMENTATION (INSURANCE AND MAINECARE)

- Requests prescriptions and authorizations for referrals for treatment and evaluation, pursuant to Department Policy.
- Completes billing documents to ensure proper billing to third parties, pursuant to Department Policy.

OTHER:

- Conducts community outreach as requested.
- Maintains the appropriate therapy environment, protocols, and treatment materials per established standards.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- State Of Maine Teaching Certificate
- 282 (Special Education), 029 (Early Childhood) or 020 (General Elementary) Certification required
- Successful background, criminal records, and reference check

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS:

- Bachelors Degree in appropriate field of study
- Working knowledge of child development, disabilities, family systems, and special education methods
- Ability to interact with a wide variety of people
- Ability to provide individual and group services in a variety of settings and models
- Ability to establish an effective rapport/relationship with children and parent
- Ability to work collaboratively as a member of an early childhood team
- Ability to effectively communicate, orally and in writing
- Ability to maintain composure in stressful situations
- Ability to adapt therapy techniques to varying personalities and environments
- Ability to travel to a variety of locations to deliver services
- Ability to treat and motivate young children

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: